



**WFP Syria**  
**SPECIAL OPERATION SO 200410**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Country:           | Syria   |
| Type of project:   | Special Operation   |
| Title:             | WFP Security, Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications in Support to EMOP 200339 - Syria Unrest |
| Total cost (US\$): | <b>US\$4,730,718</b>  |
| Duration:          | 3 months from 15 April 2012 – 14 July 2012  |

### **Abstract**

The recent escalation of unrest in Syria, with armed conflict taking place in and around the country's main cities, has put pressure on WFP's capacity to deliver assistance. The current political and operational situation has necessitated an extension of WFP's EMOP 200339 for six months to respond to increased humanitarian needs in progressively challenging circumstances.

This Special Operation in support of WFP's EMOP 200339, and for interagency logistics and emergency telecommunication coordination, covering a three-month period, will enable WFP to respond to operational disruptions in Syria. This will be done by augmenting staff in neighboring countries including logistics, security and telecommunications staff; augmenting the logistical capacity of WFP's implementing partner in Syria; ensuring the safety and security of WFP staff; and creating a logistical and emergency communications support structure which could be used by the humanitarian community. These activities will enable WFP and its humanitarian partners to provide timely and needed assistance within Syria should the ongoing unrest disrupt current operational supply lines.

This Special Operation will also provide the grounds for a swift scale up should partners involved in refugee operations in Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan require logistics and/or emergency telecommunication support.

This Special Operation seeks to:

1. Increase staffing capacity to implement logistical activities under EMOP 200339 in Syria's neighboring countries and augment the implementation capacity of partners in Syria;
2. Preposition protective equipment including armored vehicles necessary to carry out operations safely and securely within Syria;
3. Improve regional inter-agency logistics coordination in Syria's neighboring countries (Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan) to support the humanitarian community; and

4. Support emergency telecommunication coordination and the repositioning of information technology (IT) equipment for the humanitarian community in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan.

This Special Operation is for three months at an estimated budget of US\$4,730,718 million.

## **1. Project Background**

For over a year now, Syria has been affected by unrest resulting in instability and the deterioration of security conditions. To date it is estimated by the United Nations that over 8,000 people have died due to the unrest. Unrest which initially concentrated in Dara'a in the south of the country has now spread across the country including the main cities of Homs, Hama, Idlib, Dara'a, Deir-es-Zour, Abu Kamal, Qamishly, Hasakh, and Aleppo as well as the capital Damascus. People living in the areas affected by unrest are suffering from the impact of prolonged military siege and disruption to their access to livelihoods and basic necessities such as food, water, electricity and medical supplies. Furthermore, conflict is hindering the effective importation and movement of goods as well as the continuation of normal levels of trade within Syria thereby worsening the general situation for all those in the country. Insecurity has meant that many households have not been able to work. Agriculture, which is normally 20 percent of Syria's GDP, has been negatively affected due to a lack of access to fields due to security restrictions, shortages of seasonal workers as people have left areas with ongoing conflict, and the limited diesel for agricultural machinery and irrigation pumps. Food prices have risen across the country, while at the same time the strength of the Syrian currency has fallen markedly. All of these factors combined contribute to a deteriorating humanitarian situation.

Telecommunications in most of the areas have been affected and have become unreliable making them unsuitable for use by the humanitarian community to support an effective aid effort. Conflict is hampering normal transport routes. Insecurity is further hindering the ability of humanitarian actors to provide humanitarian assistance.

## **2. Project Justification**

In support of EMOP 200339, and inter-agency coordination for logistics and emergency telecommunications, this Special Operation will augment WFP's staffing, logistics and security staff, to engage in necessary response activities in Syria's neighboring countries. At present, WFP does not have staff in Turkey or Lebanon and will need to establish a presence to effectively coordinate with other humanitarian partners. The Jordan WFP office will also be augmented through this Special Operation. Logistics staff will focus on exploring alternative supply routes should current routes be blocked. Additional security staff will also be recruited to ensure a safe and secure operating environment for WFP. This Special Operation will therefore allow WFP to establish an adequate support structure outside Syria to both effectively implement the extended EMOP 200339, and to react rapidly to any operational disruptions that may occur.

Given the fluid security challenges within Syria and the needs of EMOP 200339, WFP will fill up the pipeline until the end of the year. WFP will preposition the requirements in its warehouses inside Syria and in the neighboring countries for further dispatch to its

implementing partner according to distribution plans. Should WFP's implementing partner not be able to fully distribute 100 percent of commodities each month, this stock will be retained by WFP as carry over and/or used to respond to any scale up in operations. This is necessary to avoid pipeline breaks and ensure a timely response should humanitarian space be opened.

To support WFP's implementing partner in Syria, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), whose current capacities' are stretched hindering their ability to respond to the increased caseload, WFP will assist in augmenting their logistical capacity by purchasing four trucks.

The worsening conflict in Syria means that the needs for increased humanitarian response will coincide with a growing level of insecurity and risk. It is therefore vital that staff implementing WFP's operations have necessary security equipment and support. As such, this Special Operation includes additional WFP Security Officers as well as the necessary number of armored cars for safe movement inside Syria, personal protective equipment and medical kits. This will allow for adequate security support and for staff to be able to undertake vital field missions and travel between hubs in a secure manner.

The regional dimension of the Syrian unrest requires regional inter-agency logistics coordination in Syria's neighboring countries (Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan) to support the humanitarian community in providing needed humanitarian assistance within and outside Syria. By sharing information, GIS and mapping, and having a coordinated logistics response including the provision of common storage facilities, WFP will support humanitarian efforts.

The unreliable nature of the communications network in Syria hinders a well organized humanitarian response. It is vital humanitarian organizations operating in Syria have access to reliable and secure voice and data services. This Special Operation provides for the deployment of Emergency Telecommunications Officers and equipment in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan to deploy into Syria once approval has been received.

### **3. Project Objectives**

This Special Operation seeks to:

1. Increase staffing capacity to implement logistical activities under EMOP 200339 in Syria's neighboring countries and augment the implementation capacity of partners in Syria;
2. Preposition protective equipment including armored vehicles necessary to carry out operations safely and securely within Syria;
3. Improve regional inter-agency logistics coordination in Syria's neighboring countries (Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan) to support the humanitarian community; and
4. Support emergency telecommunication coordination and the prepositioning of information technology (IT) equipment for the humanitarian community in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan.

## **4. Project Implementation**

### Component 1: Augmentation of WFP staffing capacity, prepositioning and support to implementing partners in Syria

Staff will be deployed to Syria's neighbouring countries (Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan) to engage in necessary logistical activities. WFP will establish a presence in Turkey and Lebanon while augmenting the Jordan WFP office. These offices will be used to coordinate with humanitarian partners and local authorities ensuring an organized response.

Logistics staff will assess the logistics infrastructure and capacity for alternative supply routes and the prepositioning of stocks should current routes be blocked. At present, food commodities are routed through the Syrian port of Lattakia as well as via Turkey. Should the unrest result in the disruption of any of these routes, alternative routes through Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan will need to be established. Specifically, logistic staff will be securing warehouse space and transport capacity in neighbouring countries to support a scale up of operations in Syria. WFP will also support regional inter-agency logistical coordination.

WFP will deploy security officers to assist in ensuring a safe and secure operating environment for WFP staff operating in an increasingly insecure environment.

To support WFP's implementing partner in Syria, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), with tertiary transport WFP will purchase and handover light trucks to enable effective and timely deliveries to final distribution points.

### Component 2: Augmented Safety and Security

WFP will minimise the risks for staff by undertaking comprehensive security and threat assessments under the auspices of UNDSS. Notwithstanding these precautions, the risk to staff will remain high and therefore additional protection in the form of personal protective equipment (armoured vests and helmets), trauma kits and armoured vehicles will be procured.

### Component 3: Inter-Agency Logistics Coordination

As the global lead agency for the Logistics' Cluster, WFP will initiate coordination activities in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. This will include inter-agency coordination meetings and collecting and disseminating logistical information including maps through the dedicated Logistics Cluster website. Augmented warehousing capacity in these countries will be able available to the wider humanitarian community should it be required.

### Component 4: Emergency Telecommunication Support

Local emergency telecommunication coordination groups (with representatives from the UN, NGOs, and other humanitarian actors) will be established to ensure inter-agency cooperation in ICT. Coordination of regulatory requirements with respective government authorities will be carried out using already existing networks established in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. An information management platform will be augmented to serve the humanitarian community. Updated information related to the availability of ICT

capacity, service provision per location, and contact details for support staff will be collected and disseminated throughout the duration of the operation. Prepositioning of IT equipment will allow for the rapid augmentation of the existing infrastructure in Syria, should there be a partial or total collapse of telecommunications systems. WFP will work with partners already working in this area to ensure coordinated efforts.

## 5. Project Management

The Regional Logistics Officer will be the project manager of the Special Operation and report to the ODC Regional Director; up to when this staff is in place, the role will be delegated by the Regional Director. The Country Director of the Syria country office will be the Fund Manager for all support provided by the SO to the Syria operation; while the Senior Regional Refugee Coordinator will be responsible for eventual action related to supporting the emergency operations in countries surrounding Syria. The Regional Finance officer in the Regional Bureau office will be the Allotment Manager. Two sub-funded programmes will be created:

- Logistics augmentation: to be managed by the logistics coordinator; and
- Emergency telecommunications augmentation to be managed by the ICT coordinator.

## 6. Project Cost & Benefits

The total cost of this project will be US\$4,730,718 million. This Special Operation will enable WFP to respond quickly with tactical changes related to its programmes in Syria and provide necessary assistance. Here below the costing of the activities planned and the priority of implementation, the second table details the level of planned staffing.

| Activity                                       | Cost             | Unit      | Priority<br>(1 High<br>3 Low) |
|--|------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Rental of Facility                             | 72,000           | Logistics | 1                             |
| Office Supplies & Other Consumables            | 3,000            | Logistics | 2                             |
| Communications & IT Services                   | 25,000           | ICT       | 3                             |
| Vehicle Running Costs and Maintenance          | 30,000           | Logistics | 3                             |
| Operational Agreement Programming              | 506,231          | ICT       | 2                             |
| <b>Sub-total Recurring Expenses</b>            | <b>636,231</b>   |           |                               |
| Vehicles Leasing                               | 27,000           |           | 2                             |
| Vehicle Acquisition Planning (Trucks)          | 1,480,000        | Logistics | 1                             |
| TC/IT Equipment                                | 689,065          |           | 2                             |
| Local Security Costs Planning                  | 145,000          |           | 1                             |
| <b>Sub-total Equipment &amp; Capital Costs</b> | <b>2,341,065</b> |           |                               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                   | <b>2,977,296</b> |           |                               |

| Position                                       | Duty Station | Grade |
|--|--------------|-------|
| Emergency Coordinator                          | Region       | P5    |
| Logistics Officer                              | Region       | P5    |
| Security Officer                               | Region       | P3    |
| Reports Officer                                | Region       | P3    |
| Logistics Officer                              | Amman        | P3    |
| Logistics Officer                              | Lebanon      | P3    |
| Logistics Officer                              | Turkey       | P3    |
| Information & Knowledge Management Officer     | Region       | P3    |
| Information & Knowledge Management Officer GIS | Dmascus      | P2    |
| Administration & Finance Officer               | Region       | P3    |
| Human Resources Officer                        | Region       | P3    |

Note: ICT Officers are all budgeted under ODOC as they will be deployed through FITTEST

## 7. Monitoring & Evaluation

Key indicators for this SO will include:

- Number of personnel deployed;
- Storage capacity secured to cater for stocks equal to six months of requirements;
- Percentage of timely dispatches of commodities via Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan in the event of the disruption of current supply routes; and
- Availability of access to data and voice connectivity.

## 8. Risk Assessment and Mitigation

A number of factors could impact the implementation of this Special Operation. The main risks identified are broken down below into contextual, programmatic, and institutional risks. Possible mitigation measures are also included below.

### *Contextual Risks:*

- a. Lack of access for staff due to heightening insecurity;
- b. Closure of corridors due to insecurity or political developments; and
- c. Local regulation issues resulting in frequency allocation and licensing delays or refusals (emergency telecommunications specific risk).

These risks will be mitigated through:

- a. Pro-active build-up of security staff and equipment (contained within this Special Operation) in order to provide a robust level of protection for staff;
- b. Maintenance of standby arrangements for alternative corridors;
- c. Sending any new request for frequencies to the Government before project start date; and
- d. Requesting the HC/RC to intervene or resolve issues with the appropriate authorities on behalf of emergency telecommunications.

### *Programmatic Risks:*

- a. Demands for common services exceeds current forecasts

These risks will be mitigated through:

- a. Ability to scale up staffing through rosters and identification of surge capacity;
- b. Availability of adequate storage facilities; and
- c. Availability of prepositioned equipment to meet the needs of the humanitarian community.

***Institutional Risks:***

- a. Politicization of UN humanitarian efforts affecting the use of UN assets and access.

This risk will be mitigated through:

- a. Utilization of local and regional commercial assets as much as possible.

**RECOMMENDATION**

This Special Operation covering the period from 15 April 2012 to 14 July 2012 at a total cost to WFP of US\$ 4,730,718 recommended for approval by the Executive Director with the budget provided.

**APPROVAL**

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Ertharin Cousin  
Executive Director